

NOTES ON A COLLECTION OF AMPHIBIANS FROM ETHIOPIA

By

EMIL K. URBAN

(Department of Biology, Faculty of Science, Haile Sellassie I University, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)

From 1962 through 1965 various members of the Faculty of Science of Haile Sellassie I University accumulated a series of amphibian specimens from Ethiopia. Except for duplicate specimens which are housed in the Biology Department of Haile Sellassie I University, the collection has been deposited in the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, Illinois. Because the species, distribution, and ecology of amphibians of Ethiopia are poorly known, an obvious need exists for papers, large and small, that deal with Ethiopian frogs, toads, and caecilians. Hence, I present below specific comments on this collection.

I am indeed grateful to Drs. R. F. Inger and H. Mark of the Field Museum of Natural History for identifying the amphibians in this collection. Moreover, I should like to acknowledge the various collectors mentioned in the text below. Since the literature on amphibian classification is severely limited in the library of Haile Sellassie I University, classification in this paper is based on that supplied by Inger and Marx and where appropriate supplemented by that found in Loveridge (1957, Check list of the reptiles and amphibians of East Africa, *Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool.*, Vol. 117, No. 2: 1-362).

Xenopus clivii Peracca. On 17 October, 1964, I collected adults as well as tadpoles in a pond about 200 meters from Gaferssa Reservoir, 18 kilometers west of Addis Ababa along the Ambo Road. The seasonal pond, approximately 2,585 meters in elevation, results from overflow of one stream which supplies the reservoir during the long rains (June-October). *Juncus*, *Cyperus*, and *Polygonum* are the major plants associated with the pond.

Bufo regularis Reuss. This ubiquitous toad was obtained in several months of the year at different localities ranging from approximately 535 to 2,585 meters in elevation. On 6 January, 1963, E. W. Beals collected specimens 70 kilometers east of Bati at Waranzo watercourse next to a small pool under a bridge at about kilometer 485 on the Asaab Road (11°20'N, 40°42'E), about 535 meters high; on 25 April, 1965, in a sandy open scrub of *Salvadora* and *Tamarix* with a ground cover of *Zygo-phylum* some 20 kilometers north of Era Gota, about 1,185 meters in elevation, and on 16 July, 1963, in an *Acacia* woodland 4 kilometers south of Meki in the Rift Valley, about 1,640 meters high. R. Baxter collected this species along the west shore of Lake Langanu, about 1,585 meters high, on 2 November, 1962, while J. M. Prosser and P. Chen caught it along the shore of Lake Awasa, about 1,680 meters high, on 3-4 May, 1963. I collected specimens in semi-desert bush, 48 kilometers north of Awash Station, about 830 meters high, on 14 November, 1964; in my garden in Addis Ababa, about 2,420 meters high, on 29 November, 1964; and along the shores of the pond some 200 meters from Gaferssa Reservoir, 18 kilometers west of Addis Ababa, about 2,585 meters high, on 10 October, 1964.

Bufo dodsoni Boulenger. Beals collected this toad at the Loggia watercourse, which contained *Tamarix*, 7 kilometers east of Tandaho along the Assab Road (11°44'N, 40°58'E), about 380 meters in elevation, on 6 January, 1963.

Leptopelis gramineus (Boulenger). I collected one transforming larva in the pond some 200 meters from Gaferssa Reservoir, 18 kilometers west of Addis Ababa on the Ambo Road, about 2,585 meters high, on 17 October, 1964.

Rana abyssinica Peters. Beals obtained a large series of this species from the Danakil desert at Waranzo watercourse next to and in a small pool under a bridge on the Assab Road (70 kilometers east of Bati, at kilometer 485; (11°20'N, 40°42'E), about 535 meters high, on 6 January, 1963. Baxter collected this frog along the west shore of Lake Langano, about 1,585 meters high, on 2 November, 1962.

Rana angolensis Bocage. I obtained this frog along small streams which cross the Blue Nile Road, 30 kilometers north of Addis Ababa, about 2,600 meters in elevation, on 18 October, 1964; most were captured 1-3 meters above the stream along ploughed banks which contained a new growth of unidentified weeds. Also I collected this species in the pond some 200 meters from Gaferssa Reservoir, 18 kilometers west of Addis Ababa, about 2,585 meters high, on 17 October, 1964.

Rana cooperi Parker. Beals obtained this species in Addis Ababa in the garden of Haile Sellassie I University's Faculty of Science, about 2,420 meters high, on 24 June, 1963. I obtained specimens along small streams which cross the Blue Nile Road, 30 kilometers north of Addis Ababa, about 2,600 meters high, on 18 October, 1964. As with *R. angolensis*, I found them along ploughed stream banks that had new growth of unidentified weeds.

Rana mascareniensis Duméril & Bibron. Beals and I obtained a large series of this species in the bullrushes halfway down the east shore of Lake Abaya one kilometer south of the ferry landing, about 1,240 meters high, on 28 November, 1964. Earlier, on 17 July, 1963, Beals collected this species in a marsh on the west shore of Lake Zwai, about 1,625 meters in elevation and opposite kilometer 159 on the Addis Ababa-Shashammanne-Awasa Road.

Rana ornata (Peters). Specimens of this frog were collected by Beals in a small muddy pond, 4 by 3 meters in size and associated with an *Acacia-Euphorbia* woodland, 9 kilometers south of Lake Langano village at kilometer 218 on the Addis Ababa-Shashammanne-Awasa Road, about 1,750 meters high, on 6 July, 1963; by R. B. Wood and Prosser along the shore of Lake Awasa, about 1,680 meters in elevation, on 3 May, 1963; and by Prosser in her garden in Addis Ababa, about 2,420 meters high, on 15 January, 1965.

(Received 20th March, 1967)